

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his review of the reissue application. In the Office Action dated February 17, 2004, the Examiner objected to the as-filed Claim 8 for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b). Applicant submits that the claims submitted herewith now comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b). Specifically, all changes shown in the claims submitted herewith are relative to the claims of the issued Patent No. 5,961,531. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of February 17, 2004, and substantively examine the claims submitted herewith in view of the remarks recited in the Supplemental Amendment filed on December 30, 2003.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the reissue application be reconsidered in light of the present amendments and remarks, and allowed.

Dated: March 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Abramson (Reg. No. 34,762)

HUGHES HUBBARD & REED LLP
One Battery Park Plaza
New York, New York 10004-1482
212-837-6000